

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polynucleotide shown as SEQ ID NO:X or the polynucleotide encoded by a cDNA included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
 - (b) a polynucleotide encoding a biologically active polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or a biologically active polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
 - (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide epitope encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
 - (d) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the polynucleotides specified in (a)-(c), wherein said polynucleotide does not hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of only A residues or of only T residues.
2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a soluble polypeptide.
3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z.
4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:X or a cDNA included in ATCC Deposit No:Z.
5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.
7. A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
8. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 7.
9. A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably limited to a heterologous regulating element which controls gene expression.
10. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising expressing the encoded polypeptide from the host cell of claim 9 and recovering said polypeptide.
11. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the polypeptide shown as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA;
 - (b) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA;
 - (c) a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA; and
 - (d) a variant of SEQ ID NO:Y.
12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, comprising a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:Y.
13. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to the isolated polypeptide of claim 11.

(b) determining whether the binding partner effects an activity of the polypeptide.

21. A method of screening for molecules which modify activities of the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:

- (a) contacting said polypeptide with a compound suspected of having agonist or antagonist activity; and
- (b) assaying for activity of said polypeptide.

22. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount the polypeptide of claim 11.